

ANTIBACTERIAL ACTIVITY AND METABOLITE PROFILE OF WATER AND
METHANOLIC EXTRACTS OF *BOUGAINVILLEA SPECTABILIS*

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ABSTRACT

Bougainvillea spectabilis is believed to possess several medicinal benefits that includes the use of the extract for the treatment of diseases related to bacterial infection. This study aimed at the extraction of water and methanol extracts of different colours of *Bougainvillea spectabilis* flowers and leaves, evaluation of antibacterial activity of the extracts against *Escherichia coli* and *Bacillus cereus*, and identification of the active metabolites via gas chromatography and mass spectrometry (GC/MS). Extraction of the plant extract was carried out using two different solvents, methanol and water. The *B. spectabilis* plant parts were extracted with two solvents (water and 80% methanol). The yield percentage of *B. spectabilis* extracts ranged from 9.63% to 31.3% with purple *B. spectabilis* leaves methanolic extracts (MLP) have the highest yield (28.85%). All the extracts exhibited mild antibacterial activities against the bacteria tested especially in the liquid culture test. The susceptibility of the bacteria was higher in the methanolic extract than in the water extract especially in white flower and leaves extracts (MWF and MLP) which were able to reduce the growth rate of *Escherichia coli* and *Bacillus cereus* during the lag phase and log phase. For the identification of metabolites via GC/MS, this analysis was able to identify a total of 71 volatile compounds, in which 32 compounds were identified in water extracts and 50 compounds in methanolic extracts. Both white flower and leaves methanolic extracts (MWF and MLP) shared 6 similar compounds which are pyridine, benzoic acid, 2-methoxy-4-vinylphenol, hexadecanoic acid, methyl ester, n-hexadecanoic acid and phytol. All of these 6 compounds were known to possess antibacterial activity. In conclusion, the identification and profiling of the metabolites using GC/MS offers more understanding of the antibacterial activity of *B. spectabilis* and this plant can be used as a potential source for natural antibacterial agent.

ABSTRAK

Bougainvillea spectabilis dipercayai memiliki beberapa manfaat perubatan yang termasuk penggunaan ekstrak untuk rawatan penyakit yang berkaitan dengan jangkitan bakteria. Kajian ini bertujuan untuk mengkaji hasil pengekstrakan air dan metanol menggunakan bunga dan daun *B. spectabilis*, dari dua warna yang berbeza untuk membuat penilaian terhadap aktiviti antibakteria setiap ekstrak terhadap *Escherichia coli* dan *Bacillus cereus*, dan juga untuk mengenalpasti metabolit aktif yang terdapat di dalam ekstrak yang dianalisis melalui kromatografi gas dan spektrometri massa (GC/MS). Pengekstrakan ekstrak *B. spectabilis* dijalankan menggunakan dua pelarut yang berbeza iaitu air dan 80% metanol. Peratusan hasil ekstrak *B. spectabilis* adalah di antara 9.63% hingga 31.3% di mana ekstrak metanol daun *B. spectabilis* ungu mempunyai hasil ekstrak yang paling tinggi (31.3%). Kesemua ekstrak menunjukkan terdapat aktiviti antimikrob terhadap bakteria yang diuji terutamanya dalam ujian kultur cecair. Kerentanan bakteria dilihat lebih tinggi dalam ekstrak metanol berbanding dengan ekstrak air terutamanya ekstrak metanol daripada bunga putih *B. spectabilis* (MWF) dan daun *B. spectabilis* ungu (MLP) dapat mengurangkan kadar pertumbuhan *Escherichia coli* dan *Bacillus cereus* ketika fasa lag dan fasa log. Untuk pengenalpastian metabolit melalui GC/MS, 71 jenis metabolit telah dikenalpasti di mana 32 metabolit adalah daripada ekstrak air dan 50 metabolit adalah daripada ekstrak metanol. Kedua-dua ekstrak MWF dan MLP berkongsi 6 metabolit yang sama iaitu pyridine, asid benzoik, 2-methoxy-4-vinylphenol, asid heksadekanoik, n-hexadecanoic dan phytol. Kesemua metabolit ini telah dikenalpasti memiliki aktiviti antibakteria. Secara kesimpulannya, pengenalpastian metabolit *B. spectabilis* dengan menggunakan GC/MS dapat memberikan lebih banyak pemahaman mengenai aktiviti antibakteria *B. spectabilis* dan tumbuhan ini boleh digunakan sebagai sumber yang berpotensi untuk agen antibakteria semulajadi.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

CHAPTER	TITLE	PAGE
	DECLARATION	ii
	DEDICATION	iii
	ACKNOWLEDGEMENT	iv
	ABSTRACT	v
	ABSTRAK	vi
	TABLE OF CONTENTS	vii
	LIST OF TABLES	x
	LIST OF FIGURES	xii
	LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS	xiv
	LIST OF SYMBOLS	xv
	LIST OF APPENDICES	xvi
1	INTRODUCTION	1
	1.1 Background of Study	1
	1.2 Problem Statement	5
	1.3 Objectives	6
	1.4 Scope of Study	6
	1.5 Significance of Study	7
2	LITERATURE REVIEW	8
	2.1 Natural Products from Plant	8
	2.2 History of Plant Medicinal Uses	9
	2.3 Antimicrobial Properties of Plant	10

2.4	Major Groups of Antimicrobial Metabolites from Plants	12
2.5	Bioactivity and Mechanism of the Compound Identified in Plant	16
2.6	<i>Bougainvillea</i> species	24
2.6.1	Characteristics of <i>Bougainvillea</i> plant	25
2.6.1.1	<i>Bougainvillea spectabilis</i>	26
2.6.1.2	<i>Bougainvillea glabra</i>	27
2.6.1.3	<i>Bougainvillea peruviana</i>	28
2.6.2	Potential Uses and Bioactivity of <i>Bougainvillea</i> species	29
2.6.3	Antimicrobial Activity of <i>Bougainvillea</i> Plant	32
2.6.4	Chemical Constituents and Metabolites in <i>Bougainvillea</i> species	33
2.7	Plant Extraction	36
2.7.1	Maceration	37
2.7.2	Solvent Extraction	37
2.7.3	Water Extract and Organic Solvent Extracts	38
2.8	Metabolic Profiling of Plant	41
2.8.1	Gas Chromatography and Mass Spectrometry	42
2.8.2	Liquid Chromatography and Mass Spectrometry	44
2.8.3	Nuclear Magnetic Resonance (NMR)	44
2.9	Antimicrobial Susceptibility Test for Plant	46
2.9.1	Agar Disk Diffusion Testing	46
2.9.2	Broth Dilution Method	48
2.9.3	Agar Dilution Method	49
2.9.4	Time Kill Test (Time Kill Curve)	50
3	RESEARCH METHODOLOGY	51
3.1	Research Framework	51
3.2	Media and Chemicals	53
3.3	Plant Sample Collection	53

3.4	Preparation of <i>Bougainvillea</i> Extract	54
3.5	Determination of Antibacterial Activity	56
3.5.1	Selection and Culturing of Bacterial Strain	56
3.5.2	Kirby-Bauer Test (Agar Diffusion Method)	57
3.5.3	Liquid Culture Test	57
3.5.4	Statistical Evaluation	58
3.6	Metabolite Identification via Gas Chromatography and Mass Spectrometry (GC/MS) Analysis	59
4	RESULT AND DISCUSSION	60
4.1	Effects of extraction solvent on the crude extracts yields of <i>Bougainvillea spectabilis</i> plant materials	60
4.2	Determination of Antibacterial Activity of Extracts	63
4.2.1	Agar Diffusion Test (Kirby-Bauer Test)	63
4.2.2	Liquid Culture Test	65
4.3	Metabolite Identification via Gas Chromatography and Mass Spectrometry (GC/MS) Analysis	74
4.4	Key Metabolite in MFW and MLP Extracts in Relation to Their Antibacterial Activity	90
5	CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION	96
5.1	Conclusion	96
5.2	Recommendation	98
	REFERENCES	99
	Appendices A - D	109-127

LIST OF TABLES

TABLE NO.	TITLE	PAGE
1.1	Plant derivatives for antimicrobial activity (Srivastava <i>et al.</i> , 2013)	3
2.1	The active constituents of antimicrobial activity from the natural origins (Kapoor <i>et al.</i> , 2015)	13
2.2	Bioactivity of compound that were identified in plants	19
2.3	Classes of compound and their proposed antimicrobial mechanism (Cowan, 1999; Paiva <i>et al.</i> , 2010)	21
2.4	Antimicrobial activity of secondary metabolites from medicinal plants (Paiva <i>et al.</i> , 2010; Saravanakumar <i>et al.</i> , 2015)	22
2.5	Potential uses and bioactivity for <i>Bougainvillea spectabilis</i> and <i>Bougainvillea glabra</i>	29
2.6	Metabolites in found in leaves and flowers of <i>Bougainvillea</i> species	34
2.7	Polarity index for some of common solvent used in plant extraction (Abarca-Vargas <i>et al.</i> , 2016)	38
2.8	Metabolite identified in water and methanol extracts of several plants.	39
2.9	Advantage and disadvantage of GC/MS, LC/MS and NMR in metabolite profiling (Want <i>et al.</i> 2005).	45
2.10	Growth medium, microbial inoculum size and incubation condition for Kirby-Bauer test (agar-diffusion method)	48
3.1	Details of label coding for each plant part of <i>Bougainvillea</i> sample	54

4.1	Percentage Yield of Crude Extract of Water and Methanolic Extract of <i>Bougainvillea spectabilis</i> flower and leaves	61
4.2	Diameter of inhibition zone (mm) and activity index of various <i>Bougainvillea spectabilis</i> extracts.	63
4.3	Comparison of bacterial optical density in three different <i>Escherichia coli</i> growth phase (log phase, mid-log phase, stationary phase)	69
4.4	Comparison of bacterial optical density in three different <i>Bacillus cereus</i> growth phase (log phase, mid-log phase, stationary phase)	73
4.5	Metabolite detected from water and methanolic extract of <i>Bougainvillea spectabilis</i> flower and leaves	75
4.6	Similar metabolites found in <i>Bougainvillea spectabilis</i> water extracts	85
4.7	Similar compounds found in <i>Bougainvillea spectabilis</i> methanolic extracts	86
4.8	Compound identified in MFW extracts	90
4.9	Compounds identified in MLP extracts	93
4.10	Bioactivity of similar compounds identified in MWF and MLP extracts	95

LIST OF FIGURES

FIGURE NO.	TITLE	PAGE
1.1	Development of antibiotic-resistance microorganisms (Ventola, 2015)	2
2.1	Varieties of colours of <i>Bougainvillea</i> bracts (Ghogar <i>et al.</i> , 2016)	25
2.2	<i>Bougainvillea</i> flower (Kobayashi <i>et al.</i> , 2007)	26
2.3	Red and light purple bracts of <i>Bougainvillea spectabilis</i> cultivars (Lim, 2014)	27
2.4	Light purple and purplish-red <i>Bougainvillea glabra</i> cultivar bracts (Lim, 2014)	28
2.5	Purple bracts of <i>Bougainvillea peruviana</i> cultivars (Flower's Picture, 2016)	28
2.6	Antimicrobial activity of <i>Bougainvillea</i> extract	33
2.7	Workflow of the general experimental steps of a gas chromatography and mass spectrometry (GC/MS) experiment (Hill and Roessner, 2013)	43
2.8	Example of Kirby-Bauer test (Bharathi <i>et al.</i> , 2016)	47
3.1	Research Framework	52
3.2	The flowers and the leaves of purple <i>Bougainvillea</i> sp. collected in Johor Bahru	53
3.3	The flowers and the leaves of white <i>Bougainvillea</i> sp. collected in Johor Bahru	54
3.4	Freeze drying process to obtain powdered crude extracts	56
4.1	Percentage Yield of Crude Extract of Water and Methanolic Extract of <i>Bougainvillea spectabilis</i>	61

4.2	Effect of water and methanolic <i>Bougainvillea spectabilis</i> flower extracts on <i>Escherichia coli</i> growth profile in liquid culture test.	67
4.3	Effect of water and methanolic <i>Bougainvillea spectabilis</i> leaves extracts on <i>Escherichia coli</i> growth profile in liquid culture test	68
4.4	Effect of water and methanolic <i>Bougainvillea spectabilis</i> flower extracts on <i>Bacillus cereus</i> growth profile in liquid culture test	71
4.5	Effect of water and methanolic <i>Bougainvillea spectabilis</i> leaves extracts on <i>Bacillus cereus</i> growth profile	72
4.6	GC/MS chromatogram for MWF extract	81
4.7	GC/MS chromatogram for MLP extracts	82
4.8	Venn diagram for <i>Bougainvillea spectabilis</i> flower extracts	84
4.9	Venn diagram for <i>Bougainvillea spectabilis</i> leaves extracts	85

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

GC/MS	-	Gas Chromatography – Mass Spectrometry
WHO	-	World Health Organization
NMR	-	Nuclear Magnetic Resonance
GC	-	Gas Chromatography
MS	-	Mass Spectrometry
LC/MS	-	Liquid Chromatography–Mass Spectrometry
EI	-	Electron Ionization
CLSI	-	Clinical And Laboratory Standards Institute
MIC	-	Minimum Inhibitory Concentration
NA	-	Nutrient Agar
MHA	-	Mueller Hinton Agar
UV-VIS	-	Ultraviolet–visible spectrophotometry
FTIR	-	Fourier Transform Infrared Spectroscopy
NB	-	Nutrient Broth
OD	-	Optical Density
SD	-	Standard Deviation
ANOVA	-	Analysis of Variances
EI	-	Electron ionisation
NIST	-	National Institute of Standards and Technology
FDA	-	Food and Drug Administration
CFU	-	Colony forming unit

LIST OF SYMBOL

%	-	Percentage
°C	-	Degree Celsius
μ	-	Micro
<	-	Less than

LIST OF APPENDICES

APPENDIX.	TITLE	PAGE
A	Percentage of Crude Extract	109
B	Antibacterial Activity the extract against <i>Escherichia coli</i> and <i>Bacillus cereus</i>	110
C	GC/MS chromatogram of <i>Bougainvillea spectabilis</i> extracts	111
D	Identified compound from <i>Bougainvillea spectabilis</i> plant part and their properties	116

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of Study

The rapid emergence and development of antibiotic-resistant microorganisms that occurs globally causes the antibiotics to be less effective. The infectious diseases that are caused by antibiotic-resistant microorganisms have often been reported and approximately more than 400,000 new cases of multidrug-resistant microorganisms have been recorded yearly. About 150,000 deaths have occurred worldwide due to these cases (Srivastava *et al.*, 2013). As shown in Figure 1.1, over the last few decades, there has been emergence of antibiotic resistance bacteria that even after the post treatment with antibiotics, the bacterial infections have again posed a threat to the patients. The antibiotic resistance usually occurs due to the misuse and overuse of the medicines, as well as insufficient development of new drugs by the pharmaceutical industries (Ventola, 2015).

Antibiotic Resistance Identified	Year	Antibiotic Introduced
Penicillin-R <i>Staphylococcus</i>	1940	Penicillin Tetracycline Erythromycin
	1943	
	1950	
	1953	Methicillin
Tetracycline-R <i>Shigella</i>	1959	
	1960	Gentamicin Vancomycin
Methicillin-R <i>Staphylococcus</i>	1962	
Penicillin-R pneumococcus	1965	
	1967	Imipenem and ceftazidime
Erythromycin-R <i>Streptococcus</i>	1968	
	1972	Lenoxofloxacin
Gentamicin-R <i>Enterococcus</i>	1979	
	1985	Linezolid
Ceftazidime-R Enterobacteriaceae	1987	
Vancomycin-R <i>Enterococcus</i>	1988	Daptomycin
Lenoxofloxacin-R pneumococcus	1996	
Imipenem-R Enterobacteriaceae	1998	Ceftaroline
XDR tuberculosis	2000	
Linezolid-R <i>Staphylococcus</i>	2001	Daptomycin
Vancomycin-R <i>Staphylococcus</i>	2002	
	2003	Ceftaroline
PDR- <i>Acinetobacter</i> and <i>Pseudomonas</i>	2004/5	
Ceftriaxone-R <i>Neisseria</i> <i>gonorrhoeae</i>	2009	Ceftaroline
PDR-Enterobacteriaceae		
	2010	Ceftaroline
Ceftaroline-R <i>Staphylococcus</i>	2011	

*PDR = pan-drug-resistance; R = resistant; XDR = extensively drug-resistance

Figure 1.1 Development of antibiotic-resistance microorganisms (Ventola, 2015).

Due to the rapidly increasing of antimicrobial resistance, there is an immediate action needed to develop different and new antimicrobial agents to control and treat microbial infections. Many of the plants worldwide are used in traditional medication and remedies to treat several disorders including diarrhoea, stomach acidity and respiratory illness. Medicinal values of plants have been recognized by the earlier traditional medical practitioners. Some of the plants are known to have antimicrobial

activity. Table 1.1 shows a few examples of plants and their antimicrobial compounds (Srivastava *et al.*, 2013).

Table 1.1 : Plant derivatives for antimicrobial activity (Srivastava *et al.*, 2013)

Plants	Plant derivatives	Effective against
<i>Medicago sativa</i>	Saponins, canvanine	<i>Enterococcus faecium</i> , <i>Staphylococcus aureus</i>
<i>Onobrychis sativa</i>	AMPs (antimicrobial peptides)	<i>E. faecium</i> , <i>S. aureus</i>
<i>Allium sativum</i>	Organosulfur compounds (phenolic compounds)	<i>Campylobacter jejuni</i>
<i>Raphanus sativum</i>	RsAFP2 (antifungal peptide)	<i>Candida albicans</i>
<i>Vetiveria zizaniodes</i> L. Nash	Vetivone (vetiver oil)	<i>Enterobacter</i> spp.
<i>Chelidonium majus</i>	Glycoprotein	<i>Bacillus cereus</i> , <i>Staphylococcus</i> spp.
<i>Sanguisorba officinalis</i>	Alkaloids, antimicrobial peptides	<i>Ps. aeruginosa</i> , <i>E. coli</i>
<i>Cinnamomum osmophloeum</i>	Cinnamaldehydes (in essential oil)	<i>Legionella pneumophila</i>
<i>Ocinum basilicum</i>	Essential oil	<i>Salmonella typhi</i>
<i>Micromeria nervosa</i>	Ethanolic extract	<i>Proteus vulgaris</i>
<i>Rabdosia trichocarpa</i>	Trichorabdal A	<i>Helicobacter pylori</i>
<i>Melaleuca alternifolia</i> and <i>Eucalyptus</i> sp.	Essential oil	<i>Staphylococcus</i> spp., <i>Streptococcus</i> spp.

The compounds that are responsible for the antimicrobial properties of the plant are usually the secondary metabolites. Plants have boundless capability to produce wide range of secondary metabolites. These metabolites are mostly the aromatic compounds that includes alkaloids, coumarins, terpenoids, saponins, steroids, glycosides, flavonoids, tannins and quinones (Bhalodia *et al.*, 2011; Cowan, 1999). Typically, the antimicrobial compounds are phenol derivatives. It has the ability to control and inhibit microbial growth by reducing the pH, altering efflux pumping and increasing membrane permeability. The targeted compounds have been screened out globally and they have great concerns due to the non-conferring resistance of their antibiotic activity (Alo *et al.*, 2012; Chowdhury *et al.*, 2013; Srivastava *et al.*, 2013).

Bougainvillea species is one the common ornamental plants in Malaysia. It is also known as ‘Paper Flower’ due to the thin and papery bracts. These bracts come in different shades of colours such as purple, white and pink. Although most of the time, *Bougainvillea* plants are used as ornamental plants and decoration, they are also able to serve other purposes which is for pharmaceutical or nutraceuticals (Bungihan and Matias, 2013). *Bougainvillea* species have been used as traditional medication to treat various diseases and disorder, for example, diarrhoea, cough, sore throat, leucorrhoea, stomach acidity and hepatitis. For example in Mexican traditional medicine, the flowers were steeped in hot water to make tea to treat cough and respiratory problems. The flowers of *Bougainvillea spectabilis* Willd were also used as treatment of sadness and depression of children (Gutierrez *et al.*, 2014).

Several studies show that *Bougainvillea* plant extracts especially from the leaves and the stems possess the antimicrobial properties (Bagul *et al.*, 2015; Enciso-Díaz *et al.*, 2012; Fawad *et al.*, 2012; Gupta *et al.*, 2009; Hajare *et al.*, 2015). Therefore, in this present study, the aqueous and methanol extracts from the *Bougainvillea* species flowers and leaves will be studied for its antimicrobial properties. Then, the metabolite from these extracts will be identified and profiled.

1.2 Problem Statement

Bougainvillea species are commonly available as an ornamental plant in Malaysia and it is known to possess several medical benefits. It has been used as traditional medication. This bioactivity possessed by the *Bougainvillea* species is due to the production of metabolites that naturally occur in the plant (War *et al.*, 2012). There are several studies have been done on *Bougainvillea* sp. extract (Fawad *et al.*, 2012; Rajmohan and Logankumar, 2012; Vukovic *et al.*, 2013). However, the previous research were mainly on the leaves and stems extract. Even though they have been used in the traditional medication, there are lack of literatures and studies on the bioactivity and the active metabolites that are present in different colours of flowers of the *Bougainvillea* plants. The different colours of the *Bougainvillea* sp. may possess a significant bioactivity on the microorganisms. Therefore, this study reports on the antibacterial activity as a part of antimicrobial activity of flowers and leaves of *Bougainvillea* sp. specifically on the different colours of this plant.

In this qualitative analysis of metabolite and antibacterial activity, the unknown active metabolite identification and characterization is done by using gas chromatography – mass spectrometry (GC/MS) analysis. The previous studies on *Bougainvillea* sp. usually measured and characterized the compounds by using separate individual spectrophotometric assay (Fawad *et al.*, 2012; Lisec *et al.*, 2006). This technique is quite time consuming, less sensitive and only limited to several number of individual compounds. The overall profile of the metabolites was unable to be observed (Pongsuwan *et al.*, 2007). Even though there are studies on the metabolites of *Bougainvillea* species (Hajare *et al.*, 2015; Rani *et al.*, 2012; Abarca-Vargas *et al.*, 2016), however the metabolite profiles were not really comprehensive especially on the metabolites of varieties of colours of the *Bougainvillea* species. The development of high resolution, high-accuracy mass spectrometers enables the simultaneous study of hundreds of metabolites in one experiment. By using GC/MS technique, robust identification and qualification of metabolites in a single plant extract can be achieved.

1.3 Objective

The objective of this research is to evaluate the relation of antibacterial activity and metabolite profile of water and methanolic extracts of *Bougainvillea spectabilis* flower and leaves.

1.4 Scope of Study

The scope of the study to achieve the objective are as follows:

1. Extraction of two different colours of *Bougainvillea* sp. flowers and leaves by solvents extraction (methanol and water). Analysis of the potential antibacterial activity of *Bougainvillea* sp. against bacteria (*Escherichia coli* and *Bacillus cereus*) by using Kirby-Bauer test (agar-disk diffusion test) and liquid culture test.
2. Identification and profiling of metabolites of the aqueous and methanol extracts from two different colours of *Bougainvillea* sp. flowers and leaves by using gas chromatography and mass spectrometry.
3. Evaluation of the relationship between metabolite profile and antibacterial activity of the *Bougainvillea* sp. flower and leaves extract.

1.5 Significance of Study

This study is done to profile the metabolites produced by *Bougainvillea* species and to identify the potential bioactivity of *Bougainvillea* species against several microorganisms. Plants are important to human being. Even though ornamental plants such as *Bougainvillea* sp. are mostly used as decoration purposes due to the colourful appearances and the pharmacological importance are not really well known, however, they may possess antimicrobial properties, thus there is a possibility to extract a new and readily available herbal medicine from it. By performing antibacterial tests on different part of the plants which is on the leaves and flowers, and also on different variety of colours of the flowers, the antibacterial properties of *Bougainvillea* species are able to be evaluated individually. Besides that, profiling the metabolites of *Bougainvillea* species by using gas chromatography and mass spectrometry is able to provide more knowledge and robust data on the overall characterization of the plant metabolites. The identified volatile compounds from the GC/MS analysis of the leaves and flower extracts of *Bougainvillea* species can give clearer views on the abundance and the bioactivity of the metabolites in each of the extracts thus can create better understanding of the potential medicinal use of this plant.

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